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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/769,122	01/24/2001	Thomas J. Walczak	CS10560	5562

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Intellectual Property Dept. (RKB)
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EXAMINER

BHATTACHARYA, SAM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2688

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/769,122

Applicant(s)

WALCZAK ET AL.

Examiner

Sam Bhattacharya

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-13, 15, 17-19, 21-23, 25-27 and 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 14, 16, 20, 24, 28-30, 32 and 33 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-3, 9, 12, 13, 15, 19, 21-23, 25-27 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Atkinson et al. (US 6,650,948).

As to claim 1, the Atkinson reference discloses a method for validating a non-network based location fix of a mobile station in a communications network, comprising: generating a non-network based location fix of the mobile station; evaluating the validity of the non-network

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based location fix of the mobile station by comparing the non-network based location fix with a prior network based location fix. See col. 4, lines 33-45.

As to claim 2, the Atkinson reference discloses the method of Claim 1, generating the non-network based location fix includes receiving global positioning system signals at the mobile station. See col. 4, lines 37-44.

As to claims 3 and 13, the Atkinson reference discloses the communications network having a plurality of base stations 24, generating the network based location fix by measuring a time related parameter of signals received at the mobile station from several base stations neighboring the mobile station. See col. 4, lines 37-44.

As to claim 12, as cited in claim 1, the Atkinson reference discloses a method for validating a satellite positioning system based location fix of a satellite positioning system enabled cellular mobile station in a cellular communications network, comprising: generating a satellite positioning system based location fix of the mobile station; evaluating the validity of the satellite positioning system based location fix by comparing the satellite positioning system based location fix to a prior network based location fix. See col. 4, lines 33-45.

As to claims 9, 15, and 19, the Atkinson reference discloses the method of Claims 1 and 12, evaluating the validity of the non-networked (or satellite positioning system) based location fix by comparing it to one network based location fix, generating a plurality of network based location fixes of the mobile station and evaluating the validity of the non-networked (or satellite positioning system) based location fix by comparing it to at least one of the plurality of network based location fixes. See col. 4, lines 33-45.

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As to claims 21 and 25, Atkinson discloses a method for validating a location fix of a mobile station ("mobile machine"), including generating a plurality of location fixes of the mobile station, and evaluating the validity of a recently generated location fix of the mobile station by comparing the location fix for which the validity determination is required to a previously generated mobile station location fix. See col. 4, lines 33-45.

As to claims 22 and 31, the Atkinson reference discloses evaluating the validity of the location fix based on a specified range (i.e., the sequence of cells in FIG. 2) of a previously generated location fix.

As to claims 23 and 26, the Atkinson reference discloses defining the specified range based on estimated velocity of the mobile station and a time variable. See col. 7, lines 17-21.

As to claim 27, Atkinson shows a cellular mobile station, comprising:

a satellite positioning system (GPS) signal reception interface 11 in the mobile station ("mobile machine") for receiving satellite positioning system signals;

a cellular communications network interface in the mobile station for communicating with a cellular communications network;

an information processor 14 coupled to the satellite positioning system signal reception interface and the cellular communications network interface,

the information processor for evaluating the validity of a satellite positioning system based location fix by comparing it to one mobile station location fix and by comparing it to at least one prior mobile station location fix. See FIG. 3 and col. 16, lines 35-54.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson in view of Hill et al. (U.S. Patent 5,857,155).

As to claim 4, the Atkinson reference discloses the method of Claim 1. However, it does not disclose translating the network based location fix and the non-network based location fix into a common format prior to comparing the network and non-network based location fixes. The Hill reference teaches “a method of controlling the operation of a subscriber device having a GPS receiver within a messaging system having a plurality of transmitters having known coordinates comprises the steps of acquiring GPS information from the GPS receiver and accessing a memory location having known transmitter coordinates and comparing the known transmitter coordinates with the GPS information” (Col. 1, lines 58-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of Atkinson to translate the network based location fix and the non-network based location fix into a common format prior to comparing the network and non-network based location fixes, as taught by Hill, in order to control the operation of a subscriber device with adjustment to the power from the transmitter module.

As to claim 5, the Atkinson reference discloses the method of Claim 1. However, it does not disclose generating the non-network based location fix of the mobile station in longitude and latitude coordinates, converting the network based location fix to longitude and latitude coordinates before comparing the network based location fix with the non-network based location fix. The Hill reference teaches "Figure 5, the method 200 comprises at step 202 of acquiring GPS information at a selective call receiver from the GPS receiver comprising information selected from the group of latitude, longitude, and velocity" (Col. 5, lines 41-45). "At step 200 a look-up table of the known transmitter coordinates is accessed and compared with the known transmitter coordinates with the GPS information" (Col. 5, lines 49-52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of Atkinson to generate the non-network based location fix of the mobile station in longitude and latitude coordinates, converting the network based location fix to longitude and latitude coordinates before comparing the network based location fix with the non-network based location fix, as taught by Hill, in order to control the operation of a two-way selective call subscriber device.

As to claim 6, the Atkinson reference discloses the method of Claim 1. However, it does not disclose evaluating the validity of the non-network based location fix by determining whether the non-network based location fix is within a specified range of the network based location fix. The Hill reference teaches "the known GPS position of the subscriber could be used to determine the range to the nearest local base receiver. The location of the nearest base receivers would be stored in a code plug table preferably in the form of a base receiver location

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map 54. The minimum distance to a receiving base station would easily be calculated from the GPS information” (Col. 3, lines 46-52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of Atkinson to evaluate the validity of the non-network based location fix by determining whether the non-network based location fix is within a specified range of the network based location fix, as taught by Hill, in order to adjust the transmit output level in a subscriber device.

As to claim 8, as cited in claim 1, the Atkinson reference discloses the method of Claim 1, the communications network having a plurality of base stations, generating the network based location fix by measuring at the mobile station several base station signals neighboring the mobile station. However, it does not disclose evaluating the validity of the non-network based location fix by determining whether the non-network based location fix is within a specified range of the network based mobile station location fix. As cited in claim 6, the Hill reference teaches evaluating the validity of the non-network based location fix by determining whether the non-network based location fix is within a specified range of the network based mobile station location fix.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of Atkinson to evaluate the validity of the non-network based location fix by determining whether the non-network based location fix is within a specified range of the network based location fix, as taught by Hill, in order to adjust the transmit output level in a subscriber device.

6. Claims 10 and 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson in view of Bala et al. (U.S. 6,539,230).

As to claims 10 and 17, Atkinson discloses the method of Claims 9 and 12. However, it does not disclose evaluating the validity of the non-network (or satellite positioning system) based location fix by determining whether the non-network (or satellite positioning system) based location fix is closer to a less recently generated network based location fix than it is to a more recently generated network based location fix. The Yen reference teaches evaluating the validity of the non-network (or satellite positioning system) based location fix by determining whether the non-network (or satellite positioning system) based location fix is closer to a less recently generated network based location fix than it is to a more recently generated network based location fix ("the location information may be supplied, for example, by a global positioning satellite (GPS) receiver in the wireless terminal, or by other location measurement techniques (e.g., triangulation based on signal strengths, dead reckoning)" (Col. 2, lines 39-43). "In step 208, the wireless terminal will determine that the second entry of the location/parameter table, having location (x_1, y_1) , is the closest to the current location of (x_4, y_4) . Assuming that the test in step 210 indicates that the distance between (x_1, y_1) and (x_4, y_4) is less than L , control will pass to step 216, at which point the entry containing (x_1, y_1) and DCCH1 is placed in the first location of the location/parameter table and the other entries are shifted down" (Col. 7, lines 39-46). See Col. 6, line 48 to Col. 7, line 55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of Atkinson to evaluate the validity of the non-network based location fix by determining whether the non-network based location fix is closer

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to a less recently generated network based location fix than it is to a more recently generated network based location fix, as taught by Yen, in order to update and store current location and location-dependent operating parameter for a mobile station.

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkinson in view of Bala et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0068580 A1).

As to claim 11, the Atkinson reference discloses the method of Claim 1. However, it does not disclose generating a plurality of network based location fixes of the mobile station, estimating a future location fix of the mobile station based on the plurality of the network based location fixes, evaluating the validity of the non-networked based location fix by determining whether the non-network based location fix is within a specified range of the estimated location fix. As cited in claim 9, The Bala reference teaches generating a plurality of network based location fixes of the mobile station (“movement information for a subscriber can include past locations for a subscriber, e.g., the identity of and number of times transmitters have successfully polled the subscriber, or future expected movement activity” (page 1, col. 1, paragraph [0006], lines 8-12)) and estimating a future location of the mobile station based on the plurality of the network based location fixes (“the movement information for the subscriber is analyzed to determine the likely current location of the subscriber” (page 2, col. 1, paragraph [0019], lines 2-4)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of Atkinson to generate a plurality of network based location fixes of the mobile station and estimate a future location fix of the mobile station

based on the plurality of the network based location fixes, as taught by Bala, in order to determine the probable current location of the mobile station.

8. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Atkinson in view of Hill et al. (U.S. Patent 5,857,155).

As to claim 18, Atkinson discloses the method of Claim 17, estimating a future location of the mobile station by extrapolating along an estimated path of the mobile station. However, Atkinson does not disclose evaluating the validity of the satellite positioning system based location fix by determining whether the satellite positioning system based location fix is within a specified range of the estimated location fix.

The Hill reference teaches evaluating the validity of the satellite positioning system based location fix by determining whether the satellite positioning system based location fix is within a specified range of the estimated location fix ("the known GPS position of the subscriber could be used to determine the range to the nearest local base receiver. The location of the nearest base receivers would be stored in a code plug table preferably in the form of a base receiver location map 54. The minimum distance to a receiving base station would easily be calculated from the GPS information" (Col. 3, lines 46-52)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the method of Atkinson to evaluate the validity of the satellite positioning system based location fix by determining whether the satellite positioning system based location fix is within a specified range of the estimated location fix, as taught by Hill, in order to determine an expected area within which a mobile station is located.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 7, 14, 16, 20, 24, 28-30, 32 and 33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the claims are objected to for the reasons state in the previous Office action.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sam Bhattacharya whose telephone number is (571) 272-7917. The examiner can normally be reached on Weekdays, 9-6, with first Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Eng can be reached on (571) 272-7495. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

sb


GEORGE ENG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER